



GRAIN & LIVESTOCK REPORT

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MARKET ANALYSIS - May 06, 2004

Michael Haigh-Assistant Professor
University of MD Cooperative Extension

Corn, wheat and soybeans all finished up last week in good shape with significant gains being posted in all three markets. For corn, much of the gain was due to spillover support from beans, light weather concerns and solid demand. This strength continued all week long with forecasts of hot and dry weather. The July futures led the way in the corn pit and basis remains very firm across the country. Additional support came from the demand side when export inspection numbers on Monday supported the market. This market will continue to closely monitor crop development because it is a widely known fact that it will take a huge crop to maintain the stocks and as each week goes by this will be the bigger and bigger fundamental. This market is biding its time waiting for a full-blown weather market to kick in. The U.S. dollar has dropped considerably in the last week but it will take a while before that has a longer lasting effect on new sales. Soybeans had a terrific week last week and the July contract finished up over 50 cents and we are now over \$1 above the April 21st low. Soybeans rallied again on Monday due to strong fundamentals stemming mainly from what looks like a shrinking South American crop. Forecasts for dry and hot weather this week should allow for some planting progress but seasonally next week is the big week for planting. Crushers are making good money these days and crushing rates have stayed constant but it is the tightening of the basis that is getting end users worried. The crushers will probably not affect demand too much in the short run however as they have about 2 - 3 weeks supply on hand and exports look to be fairly slow. Wheat started out with a good week what with hot, dry weather forecasts and a bullish export number attracting the bulls in the pits. Traders are focusing on the rapid change in temperatures from sub freezing temperatures to nearly 90-degree weather, which might stress the crop. Support also came in this market from the lower dollar value and lower freight rates (despite oil reaching \$40 a barrel). Next week will be a big week with the USDA supply and demand report coming out on Wednesday the 12th..

BASIS TABLE

LOCATION	CORN BASIS		SOYBEAN BASIS		WHEAT BASIS	
	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Dec04)	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Nov04)	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Jul04)
Western MD	+38	N/A	-76	N/A	-46	N/A
Central MD	+16	+3	-55	-35	-1	-12
Southern MD	+26	-5	-24	-25	N/A	-30
Upper E. S	+29	+10	-26	-25	N/A	-26
Lower E. S	+38	+13	-12	-16	-23	-23

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Despite a few showers last week, Maryland farmers had 4.7 days suitable for field work which they used to advance planting activities. Corn planting advanced to 33 percent complete, nearly doubling the progress from the previous week. While planting progress is close to average for many crops, dry weather is needed to stay on schedule. As the first cutting of hay is soon to begin, hay supplies are 46 percent adequate, 39 percent short and 15 percent very short. Pasture condition is 23 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 17 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Small grains are in mostly good condition with winter wheat rated 14 percent excellent, 64 percent good, 19 percent fair, and 3 percent poor. Barley condition is 18 percent excellent, 63 percent good, 16 percent fair, and 3 percent poor.

CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05
Western Md	3.48	3.52	9.38	9.64	3.40	3.53	2.65	2.63
Central MD	3.47	3.30	9.59	9.88	3.70	3.98	2.70	2.70
Southern MD	3.28	3.40	9.65	10.15	----	----	----	----
Upper E. Shore	3.33	3.45	9.75	10.14	----	----	----	1.60
Lower E. Shore	3.41	3.52	9.77	10.28	3.50	3.76	1.55	1.60

Soybean Meal

Lower Eastern Shore

Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)

Date	4/28	5/05	Date	4/28	5/05
48% Soybean Meal	337.00	350.00	44% Soybean Meal	325.00	344.00

FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/bu) For Harvest delivery Dealer's Avg Quote

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05	4/28	5/05
Western Md	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	3.17	3.18	6.98	7.52	3.70	3.96	----	----
Southern MD	3.05	3.10	7.08	7.62	3.53	3.78	1.50	1.50
Upper E Shore	3.18	3.23	7.08	7.62	3.57	3.82	1.60	1.60
Lower E Shore	3.23	3.28	7.17	7.71	3.60	3.85	1.65	1.66

GRAIN FUTURES - Chicago Board of Trade (cents/bu) -May 05, 2004

Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal ¹	
May	314.25	May	1,034.50	May	399.00	May	326.20
Jul	319.75	Jul	1,020.00	Jul	408.00	Jul	324.40
Sep	316.75	Aug	959.00	Sep	413.50	Aug	311.00
Dec	315.25	Sep	845.50	Dec	423.25	Sep	288.50
Mr05	319.25	Nov	786.50	Mr05	428.00	Oct	256.70
May	320.25	Ja05	783.50			Dec	251.60

¹ \$/ton

HAY AND STRAW							
New Holland, PA - \$/ton - May 03, 2004 -80 loads							
Alfalfa		Mixed		Timothy		Orchardgrass	
19.00-170.00		62.00-200.00		57.00-170.00		65.00-160.00	
160.00-205.00							
Westminster, MD - \$/bale - May 03, 2004 - 196 Lots							
Alfalfa		Mixed		Timothy		Mixed	
1.25-4.00		1.60-3.30		1.20-4.00		1.80-2.50	
Grass Mix		Straw					
1.25-3.80		2.00-3.90					
POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending May 08, 2004 - Negotiated Price, (\$/cwt)							
		Current Week		Week Ago		Month Ago	
Year Ago							
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)		76.85		76.36		76.33	
52.36							
12 City Composite		77.83		76.05		76.77	
58.10							
LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - May 04, 2004							
H-Ch-Pr		100-120 lbs		107.00-109.00		Medium Good	
30- 60 lbs		105.00-125.00		Sheep 48 Hd		36.00-58.00	
80-100 lbs		115.00-125.00		Heavy Weight		25.00-40.00	
60 80 lbs		125.00-150.00					
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - May 06, 2004				DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD- May 05, 2004			
Base Price Range		Carcass Basis		Sows (1-3)		#1 & 2	
a.m.		Base 185 lb Hog		300-449 lbs		240-280 lbs	
						48.50-49.25	
						44.00-46.00	
Eastern Cornbelt		69.00-78.00		N/A		31.00-38.00	
Iowa, Minn		70.25-76.50		36.00-46.11		Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) - Next Sale May 18, 2004	
FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -							
Gumboro, DE - May 04, 2004				New Holland, PA -May 05, 2004			
Head:		Trend:		Head: 498		Trend: Mostly slaughter	
Next Sale May18, 2004				31-32 lbs		115.00-122.00	
						39 lbs	
						92.00-92.00	
CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - May 05, 2004				HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - May 05, 2004			
May		87.15		Oct		84.55	
Jun		85.45		Dec		83.60	
Aug		85.42					
May		75.45		Aug		72.82	
Jun		74.35		Oct		61.17	
Jul		75.77		Dec		57.35	
STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)							
Winchester, VA - May 05, 2004				Westminster, MD - May 05, 2004			
Steers		200- 300 lbs		115.50-133.00		Steers	
		300- 400 lbs		120.00-135.50		200- 400 lbs	
		400- 500 lbs		113.50-126.00		102.00-126.00	
		500- 600 lbs		106.00-118.50		400- 500 lbs	
		600- 700 lbs		94.50-105.00		104.00-123.00	
		700- 800 lbs		89.50- 96.00		Few	
		800- 900 lbs		84.50- 87.00		90.00- 93.00	
		900-1100 lbs		83.00- 85.00		500- 600 lbs	
		300- 400 lbs		106.00-124.00		87.00-106.00	
		400- 500 lbs		102.00-116.50		600- 700 lbs	
		500- 600 lbs		96.00-112.00		87.00-102.00	
		600- 700 lbs		82.00- 95.50		700- 800 lbs	
		700- 800 lbs		80.00- 87.00		90.00- 96.00	
		800- 900 lbs		79.75- 84.50		200- 400 lbs	
						90.00-109.00	
						400- 500 lbs	
						94.00-111.00	
						500- 600 lbs	
						87.00-101.00	
						600- 800 lbs	
						75.00- 87.00	
						800-1000 lbs	
						69.00- 75.00	

For more information about this report, call 410-841-5740 or write:

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

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